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IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1. (Cancel claim)

Claim 2. (Cancel claim)

Claim 3. (Canceled)

Claim 4. (Cancel claim)

Claim 5. (Cancel claim)

Claim 6. (Cancel claim)

Claim 7. (Cancel claim)

8. (currently amended) The method of claim 7⁹, further comprising the step of positioning said workpiece based on said converted vertical distance.

9. (currently amended) A method for adjusting the vertical position of a workpiece, said method comprising the steps of:

transmitting a light beam onto the top surface of said
workpiece at a predetermined angle relative to a normal axis
associated with said workpiece;

detecting the light beam projected on the top surface of said
workpiece;

detecting a lateral shift of said detected light beam on the
top surface of said workpiece, said shift occurring as a result of
a vertical translation of said top surface; and,

converting said detected lateral shift to a corresponding
vertical distance using trigonometry~~The method of claim 7, wherein~~
the step of detecting said detected light beam ~~further~~ comprises
the steps of:

monitoring a boundary of said detected light beam;

generating signals representing positions of said boundary;

and,

evaluating said signals for determining a center point of said
boundary.

Claim 10. (Cancel claim)

Claim 11. (Cancel claim)

Claim 12. (Canceled)

Claim 13. (Cancel claim)

Claim 14. (Cancel claim)

Claim 15. (Cancel claim)

Claim 16. (Cancel claim)